

Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Association State Fire Plan Annual Report

Report of RC&D Activities Relative to Implementing the National Fire Plan
Prepared by Russ Manwaring, West Central Highlands RC&D

Clearwater RC&D Council, Inc. – Moscow, ID

❖ **County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan (Upgrade) (for all of Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties)**

Planning process started in 2001 with first version completed summer, 2003. All five plans are in updating/upgrading process to be compliant with FEMA, Idaho NFP Strategic Fire Plan requirements, and Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. Revised plans will include mitigation recommendations for all “communities” as listed in NFP discussion in Federal Register. Funding for contract to update plans from existing BLM Assistance Agreement.

❖ **National Fire Plan IDL-FS Fire Projects**

Initiated in 2003, this project utilizes carryover Forest Service NFP funding through the Idaho Department of Lands to develop public education activities, mitigation/demonstration projects and support activities in wildland interface areas. Three projects tied to this NFP funding completed in 2004:

- Moscow Mountain Defensible Space Door to Door Education Activities—local contractors made 85 on site face-to-face visits resulting in completed home evaluations. Approximately 390 homeowners in the Moscow Mountain area of Latah County were contacted and/or provided information.
- Elk City Community/Residential Defensible Space Work--local Elk City Area Alliance conducted on-the-ground hazardous fuels reduction activities for four homeowners.
- Upper Deer Creek Drainage Defensible Space Demonstration --Five home sites (immediate area of wildfire influence) and a home site access road near White Bird, ID were treated according to IDL-HFT standards and guidelines. RC&D contractor performing the work was Framing Our Community, Inc. Included meetings, home assessments, FireWise education materials, mapping/GPS work, travel, and overhead. Funding for all three projects: IDL

❖ **Fire Management Activity Plans**

In 2002, the Clearwater RC&D Council entered into contract with a local consulting firm to develop two fire management activity plans in the Little Salmon River and Elk City polygon areas for the Bureau of Land Management’s Cottonwood Field Office. Final drafts submitted to BLM in June 2003. No further review action by BLM, because of a change in priorities. RC&D contract complete. Funding: BLM.

❖ **Wet Gulch Fuel Breaks**

RC&D entered into agreement in 2001 with the Idaho Department of Correction, providing work crews and supervision for constructing fuel break corridors in the Wet Gulch area of John Day Creek watershed in Idaho County on land managed by the BLM. Work has continued on this project and is ongoing. Funding: BLM.

❖ **2004 Nez Perce Tribe Fire Education Corps Team**

The Nez Perce Tribal Forestry Department handled the funding and sponsored a Student Conservation Association Fire Education Corps Team, focusing primary efforts in the Clearwater Valley area of North Central Idaho within the Nez Perce Reservation. Some work outside of the reservation boundary was performed in the Kamiah, Grangeville, Orofino and Kooskia areas. Funding: USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs.

❖ **BLM Cottonwood Field Office “Area Wide” Fire Management Plan**

Clearwater RC&D Council contracted this work to North Wind, Inc. in Idaho Falls, ID. Complete August, 2004. A district-wide fire management plan was developed to determine how prescribed fire, wildland fire used for resource benefit, and fire suppression can be used to meet objectives identified in BLM's Framework Management Plan. The FMP discusses potential work on federally managed BLM land as well as other affected lands. Funding: BLM.

❖ **Region II National Fire Plan Projects Support/Development/Coordination**

A contract was developed between the RC&D Council and two independent contractors, completed in December, 2004. The pair of contractors worked as a team and made numerous contacts with rural and city fire district personnel and other people involved with fire protection within the five county RC&D area. They have provided some very good insight and suggested a number of recommendations that are critical to better wildland and structural fire protection in the area. Funding: BLM.

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High Country RC&D – Rexburg, ID

- ❖ The HCRC&D has partnered with the Lemhi County Commission and the USDA – Forest Service to implement a hazardous fuels reduction demonstration in Lemhi County. Lemhi County provides the initial screening of potential demo sites as well as onsite planning assistance. To date a total of 15 demonstration projects have been completed in the Sheep Creek and Gibbonsville area. Eight projects were completed during 2004.
- ❖ During 2004, the HCRC&D provided logistical support and administrative services to:
 - Completion of the Custer County Wildfire Mitigation Plan.
 - Development of a Custer County Rural Addressing System.
- ❖ The HCRC&D is currently working with home owners in Teton County, Bonneville County, and Custer County to implement several hazardous fuels reduction demonstration projects in the spring of 2005. These HCRC&D has provided on site and risk assessments and is in the process of developing individual contracts.

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Panhandle Lakes RC&D – Coeur d'Alene, ID

- ❖ The RC&D continues to host the Fuels for Schools program manager for the State. Two projects are underway.
- ❖ The RC&D Coordinator serves as a member of the Kootenai County Wildland Urban Interface Committee. This committee has sponsored and completed many successful WUI projects.

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Southwest Idaho RC&D Council, Inc. – Meridian, ID

- ❖ The Fire Mitigation Plan for Elmore County completed in May 2004
- ❖ The Fire Mitigation Plans for Ada and Canyon is on going
- ❖ Continue to work on the I-84 fuelbreak in Elmore County to reduce motorists cause fires from spreading to rangelands
- ❖ The Council has contracted Northwest Management to complete All Hazard Mitigation plans for Ada, Canyon and Elmore Counties
- ❖ The RC&D assisted the fire districts in Boise, Middleton, Mountain Home, Notus and Star to receive Presidential Wildfire Initiative equipment grants
- ❖ Fire Education presentations to groups in Ada, Canyon and Elmore Counties

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Three Rivers RC&D Council, Inc. – Pocatello, ID

- ❖ **Firewise Communities / USA**
 - Development of a Firewise Community committee in Johnny Creek – Johnny Creek Firewise Community should be confirmed in early 2005.
 - Scheduling and conducting home evaluations/Firewise education in several areas of Bannock County
- ❖ **Public Relations / Outreach**
 - Development of monthly column in the Idaho State Journal “*Firewise*”
 - A WFEP brochure development, describing WFEP goals, objectives, and programs, including the new cost share program - placed in areas frequented by the public.
 - Development of the WFEP website
 - Development of a 5 minute video on defensible space and fuel reduction assistance information, completion scheduled for April 2005.
 - Development of three-panel display for meetings as well as small desktop displays on WFEP with sleeve for brochures.
- ❖ **Fuel Reduction Projects / Firewise Cleanups**
 - Lava Ranch homeowners taking advantage of the Chipping Project in their community;
 - One neighborhood fuel reduction project – Catus/Sage neighborhood (Johnny Creek).
 - Development of the Fuel Reduction Cost Share Program- this program is designed to fill a void in the WFEP as it assists homeowners who are physically unable or do not have the time to reduce fuels on their own.
- ❖ **Fire Education Team**
 - RedZone Surveys (800)
 - 207 homes in Downey,
 - 188 in the Jackson Creek,
 - 202 in the Pocatello Valley Fire District (Mink Creek Area)
 - 203 in the Chubbuck Fire District (Pocatello Creek Area)

- Wildland Fire Home Evaluations
 - Lava Hot Springs Fire District (Lava Ranch Area) – 13
 - Pocatello Valley Fire District (Mink Creek/Gibson Jack Areas) – 2
 - Chubbuck Fire District (Pocatello Creek/Buckskin Areas) – 2
 - Pocatello Fire District (Johnny Creek Area) – 1
- Canvassing in Downey and Inkom (Jackson Creek) fire districts

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West Central Highlands RC&D Council, Inc. – Emmett, ID

- ❖ The RC&D Contracted with Northwest Management, Inc. and completed Fire Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans in Adams, Gem, Payette, and Washington Counties
- ❖ Northwest Management was also retained and completed All Hazard Mitigation plans in December 2004 for Adams, Boise, Gem, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties
- ❖ A Fire Educator was hired, utilizing a grant from the BLM, and community fire planning presentations were made to various groups in Adams, Boise, Gem, Valley and Washington Counties
- ❖ The RC&D Forestry Consultant continued working with subdivision groups and has set up four new hazardous fuel treatment demonstrations that will occur in the spring of 2005
- ❖ A Consultant was retained and has begun site evaluations in preparation for the Fuel Reduction project in the Castle Mountain Subdivision in Boise County
- ❖ A 2005 WUI grant was prepared and received priority for consideration at the Western Fire mangers WUI Meeting

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Wood River RC&D Council, Inc. – Gooding, ID

- ❖ The county-wide fire mitigation plans for Camas, Gooding, and Lincoln counties are completed
- ❖ We are working on some demonstration projects for 2005, should the grant be approved.

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